

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MINUTES

OF THE

## TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

North Alabama Baptist Association

HELD WITH

MT. PISGAH CHURCH, DE KALB COUNTY, ALA.,

AUGUST 20TH AND 21ST, A. D., 1897.



### OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

H. H. KIRBY, = Moderator, = Pea Ridge, Ala.

M. J. LATTY, = Clerk, = Ider, Ala.



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# PROCEEDINGS.

The Association met according to adjournment with Mt. Pisgah Church, August 20th and 21st, 1897.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Eld. J. W. S. Higgins; text, John 15th chapter, 12th verse.

After refreshments the Association was called together. Read the 97th division of the Psalms. Prayer by the Moderator.

Appointed J. W. S. Higgins and S. S. Vernon to read letters, constitution, by-laws and articles of faith.

Enrolled delegates' names. See table.

Called for new churches. The Mt. Zion church presented a letter asking admission into this Association and accrediting Eld. H. Frazier and F. M. Price as delegates, and on motion they were received, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship.

Invited visiting ministers and members to seats in council.

Elected H. H. Kirby Moderator and M. J. Latty Clerk.

Appointed committees: On Preaching—from the church, D. P. M. Davis and H. N. Tripp; from the body, L. B. Kirby, A. M. Anderson and J. J. Sentel. On Finance—A. Gilbreath and W. T. Jones. On Sabbath Schools—W. L. Bookout, T. N. Kirby and J. T. Dodd. On Temperance—F. Smith, J. L. Painter and H. Frazier. On Deceased Ministers and Members—I. F. Hurst and W. J. Johnson.

Adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow.

Preaching at night by Eld. H. Frazier and J. L. Painter.

## SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

Reassembled pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator called the body to order. Prayer by Eld. J. T. Dodd.

Called the roll, read and adopted the minutes of yesterday.

Called for reports of committees.

The committee on Preaching announced preaching at 11 o'clock by Eld. J. T. Dodd, followed by W. L. Bookout; at night by Eld. S. S. Vernon, followed by W. J. Garren.

The Finance committee reported a total of \$10.50. On motion the report was received and the committee released.

## SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sabbath Schools, beg leave to submit the following: Believing that great good comes from Sabbath schools, and seeing the negligence of some of our churches in having Sabbath schools, we urge that the churches be more alive to Sabbath schools, thereby instructing our children in God's word.

J. L. PAINTER, Chairman.

After discussion by J. L. Painter and others, the report was adopted and released.

At 11 o'clock the Association adjourned for preaching and one hour for refreshments.

The Association then resumed business.

## TEMPERANCE.

We, your committee on temperance, beg leave to submit the following: Whereas intoxicating drinks are corrupting to morals and degrading to society and injurious to Christian in-

fluence, Resolved, That we recommend to this body to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. Resolved, That we be careful and temperate that we may wield an influence that will redound to the honor and glory of God.

J. T. DODD, Chairman.

After being discussed by many of the brethren, led by prayer by Eld. J. T. Dodd, the report was adopted.

#### DECEASED MINISTERS AND MEMBERS.

Your committee on deceased ministers and members desire to offer the following: Our Heavenly Father has graciously spared the lives of all our ministers and permitted them to labor in His vineyard through another Associational year, during which time we find that three of our members have been called from our midst. While we mourn and are sensibly conscious of our loss, we recognize in their death the hand of an Allwise Providence. Therefore we would bow in humble submission to His will, realizing that our loss is their eternal gain.

I. F. HURST, Chairman.

Upon the presentation of the report the congregation joined in prayer led by Eld. H. Frazier, then on motion the report was adopted.

#### MISSIONS.

We, your committee on missions, beg leave to submit the following: Seeing the shortness of Baptist preaching in our bounds and the neglect of the poor, we recommend to your body the following: That the churches urge the ministers of our Association to put in every Saturday and Sunday and as much other time as possible preaching, and that the churches aid them in contributing to their needs and the need of the poor.

H. H. KIRBY, Chairman.

Appointed the next session of this body to be held with Mt. Zion church, nine miles northeast of Albertville, commencing on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in August, 1898.

Elected Eld. J. T. Dodd to preach the introductory sermon and M. Henegar, alternate.

On motion the Clerk was instructed to superintend the printing and distribution of 500 minutes. On motion a collection of 80 cents was raised to aid in the distribution of the minutes.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered Mt. Pisgah church and friends of this community for their kind hospitality in providing for the delegates and visitants to this Association.

Read and adopted the minutes of the day. Sang a hymn, prayer by Eld. J. W. S. Higgins, then the Association adjourned to the above time and place.

M. J. LATTY,  
CLERK.

H. H. KIRBY,  
MODERATOR.



## CONSTITUTION.

1. This Association shall be known as the North Alabama Baptist Association.

2. The objects of this Association are to promote union among the children of God, their growth in grace, the salvation of sinners and the glory of God; for effecting all of which they are authorized to adopt the arrangements they judge proper, and directed by the word of God.

3. The Association shall be composed of brethren chosen by the churches in union which they represent, who shall produce certificates of their appointment, together with a statement of the members in their respective churches—of those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead during the year, with the whole number in fellowship.

4. Each church shall have the privilege of sending three delegates and no more.

5. The Association shall have a Moderator and Clerk, (last shall be Treasurer) who shall be chosen by ballot out of the members present, and who shall continue in office until a new election shall be made.

6. After the reading of the letters from the churches, enrolling the names of the delegates and minuting the state of each church, the Constitution, Declaration of Faith and By-Laws shall be read. The door shall be opened for the admission of other churches into the union. If any such shall present themselves by letter or delegates they shall, on satisfactory evidence of their regular formation, faith and practice, be received into fellowship upon the principles of the Constitution, by the right hand of fellowship from the Moderator.

7. After reading the Constitution, Declaration of Faith and By-Laws, and the reception of other churches, if any apply, then the Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen.

8. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order and call to its observance at any time. He shall have the privilege of leaving his seat, upon putting one in his place, and of engaging in debate.

9. The Clerk shall minute the proceedings of the Association, prepare them for the press, keep a file of the printed minutes, present them at each session for the use of the Association, and deliver them to his successor. He shall also take charge of the money and property of the Association, and dispose of them as the body shall direct.

10. In the decision of any point the majority of votes shall determine the point.

11. The Association shall recognize the entire independence of the churches as to any other head than Christ. The Association shall not assume any power over them in relation to their internal concerns, but shall aid them in any consistent manner. The Association will receive and act upon any question that may be sent up by the churches, and attend to any case of difficulty among them which they cannot satisfactorily settle among themselves.

12. Each member of the Association shall be expected to be in his place at the hour of meeting on the first and each succeeding day of the session, and remain until the dismissal of the body.

13. As the object of this union is to promote brotherly love, the edification of Christians, the conversion of sinners and the glory of God, it shall be its duty and privilege to hold affectionate correspondence with other Associations, and to embrace every opportunity of doing good unto men, and especially to them that are of the household of faith, as in their judgment may seem proper.

14. This association shall adjourn to any time and place they may determine upon.

15. The churches of this Association shall send up yearly by their messengers a reasonable contribution for the printing of

the minutes, which business shall be confined to some discreet person, who shall have it in charge to superintend the printing and distribution to the Associations with whom correspondence is maintained, and to the churches in fellowship.

16. As this Association is a voluntary connection, each church in it shall have the liberty of withdrawing, upon a request, setting forth its reasons for such a step—at the same time itself be bound to hear and weigh any reasons that may be urged against its withdrawal before its final separation.

17. The Association will have the privilege of withdrawing its connection with any church in the union which shall become disorderly, after consistent efforts have been made in vain to reclaim her from errors.

18. No alteration shall be made in the Constitution, or in the Declaration of Faith and Practice, hereinafter set forth, except such alteration shall be passed a year previous upon the minutes and the views of the churches obtained; when, if a majority of the churches and two-thirds of the Association shall approve of it, the alteration shall be made.



## ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and these three are one.—1 John, 5:7; 1 Timothy, 2:5.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the New Testament the rule of faith and practice.—2 Timothy, 3:16; Matthew, 9:13; Hebrews, 10:9.

3. We believe that by one man sin entered the world and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.—Romans, 5:12,21.

4. We believe that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, and that through His meritorious death the way of salvation is made possible for God to have mercy upon all that come unto him upon Gospel terms.—Hebrew, 2:9; 1 John, 2:2; 4:10.

5. We believe that being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.—Romans, 5:1.

6. We believe that the Saints will persevere in grace, and that none of them will be finally lost.—Mark, 16:16; John, 10:20; Romans, 8:38, 39; 1 John 3:9.

7. We believe there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general and universal judgment, according to the decision of which the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment and the righteous to life eternal.—Matthew, 25:46; John, 5:28, 29; Revelation, 20:12, 13.

8. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a Congregation of faithful Baptized men and women who have obtained fellowship with each other, and given themselves to the Lord, and one another, having agreed to keep up a godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel—Matthew, 10:18; Acts 2:4; Ephesians, 1:2; Romans, 6:3, 4; 2 Corinthians, 8:5.

9. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church, and the government thereof is with the body.—Acts, 14:23; 1 Corinthians, 14:29.

10. We believe that water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances instituted by Christ, and should be continued until His second coming, and that washing the Saints' feet is a duty that should be practiced by the church.—Mark, 16:15; 1 Corinthians, 11:23, 24, 25.

11. We believe that true believers are the only fit subjects of Baptism, and that immersion is the only scriptural mode.—Acts, 2:41, 10:47; Romans, 6:4.

12. We believe that none but regularly baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.—Matthew, 23:26; Acts, 20:7; 1 Corinthians, 10:16.

13. We believe that the Lord's day ought to be observed and set apart for the worship of God, and no worldly business ought to be transacted thereon, works of piety and necessity excepted.—Genesis, 2:2; Exodus, 20:10; Luke, 11:5.



## RULES OF DECORUM.

1. Those members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union shall compose the Association.

2. The members chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the number in fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and dead, since the last session.

3. The members thus chosen shall be denominated, "The North Alabama Baptist Association."

4. This Association shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor to infringe upon any of the internal rights of the churches.

5. The Association shall have a Moderator and a Clerk, who shall continue in the office until the next election.

6. If a new church should desire to be admitted into this union it should petition by letter and delegates, and if, upon examination, it be found orthodox and orderly, it shall be received by the Association, the Moderator extending the right hand of fellowship to her delegates.

7. Each church in this union shall have the privilege of sending three delegates and no more.

8. Every query sent to the Association by any church of the union, shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated, and if there be a majority for it, shall be investigated, but if not, it shall be withdrawn; provided always, that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches, unless ruled out of order.

9. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn.

10. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, except he depart from the subject.

11. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the Association.

12. There shall be no talking or whispering in time of a public speech, nor reflections cast upon the speaker.

13. No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

14. If any member shall break the rules of this decorum, he shall be immediately reported by the Moderator.
15. When it is necessary that the Moderator shall leave his seat, in debate or otherwise, he shall fill his place by nomination.



## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Reading letters from the churches.
2. Reading By-Laws, Constitution and Articles of Faith.
3. Call for petitionary letters.
4. Invite visiting ministers and brethren to seats.
5. Election of officers.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Appoint committees.
8. Fix the time and place for holding the next meeting.
9. Report of committees.
10. Miscellaneous business.
11. Read and correct the minutes.
12. Fix the order of printing and distributing the minutes.
13. Cost of printing minutes, \$7.00.

# STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	POSTOFFICE.	MODERATOR.	CLERK.	DELEGATES.	Contributions	
					Meeting Days	Total
New Bethel.....	Sulphur Springs.	J. T. Dodd.....	W. H. Haurie.	M. J. Latty, I. F. Hurst, A. Gilbreath.....	1 2 3 ..	1 64 2 \$ 2 00
Harmony Grove Head River.....	Sulphur Springs, Ga.	J. W. S. Higgins	M. Heneagar, J. W. S. Higgins, G. W. Hartline.....	2 .. 1 .. 5 ..	26 2 1 00	
Rehoboth .....	“ J. L. Painter...	J. P. Hartline...	F. Smith, W. J. Johnson, J. H. Ott, P. R. Calverd, J. G. Hendrie.....	2 .. 1 .. 5 ..	34 4 1 00	
Mt. Pisgah.....	Rosalie .....	W. L. Bookout.	H. Holcomb.....	5 6 .. .. ..	30 4 1 00	
Mt. Union.....	Pea Ridge...	W. J. Garren...	W. L. Bookout, H. H. Kirby, W. J. Garren.....	2 3 9 .. ..	38 3 1 00	
Mt. Zion.....	Menlo, Ga...	J. L. Painter...	J. J. Sentell, R. Dearing, F. M. Price.....	2 .. 4 .. ..	28 2 50	
Menton.....	S. Mountain .....	H. Frazier.....	H. Frazier, F. M. Price, J. M. Cordeil, S. S. Ver- non.....	2 .. .. ..	20 4 75	
Holly Springs.....	Menton .....	J. L. Painter...	J. M. Kirby .....	2 1 .. ..	32 4 50	
Bethlehem .....	Menton .....	A. J. Weaver...	W. J. Jones...	1 .. .. ..	1 25 .. 50	
Little River .....	Shaw .....	J. T. Dodd.....	A. M. Anderson	5 .. .. ..	36 1 1 25	
			J. W. S. Higgins	J. C. Crow .....	4 .. .. ..	2 70 1 1 00
					14 17 29 00	3 5 403 27 \$ 10 50

Ordained Ministers—H. H. Kirby, W. L. Bookout, Pea Ridge, Ala.; A. B. Sizemore, J. W. Sizemore, Bronco, Ga.; S. S. Vernon, J. L. Painter, Mentone, Ala.; J. W. S. Higgins, Sulphur Springs, Ga.; J. T. Dodd, Shaw, Ala.; H. Frazier, Sand Mountain, Ala.; W. C. Blansit, Rosalie, Ala.; M. Heneagar, Valley Head, Ala. Licentiates—J. H. Ott, Rosalie, Ala.; W. T. Windsor and A. N. McGee, Sand Mountain, Ala.; W. J. Garren, Pea Ridge, Ala.



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